



County of Los Angeles

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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April 28, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 27, AGENDA OF APRIL 29, 2003)

Agenda Item No. 27 is a motion by Supervisor Burke that the Board support the continued local administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, consistent with Board-adopted priorities supporting proposals that provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, oppose the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposal to convert the program into a state block grant, instruct the County's advocates to oppose the HUD proposal, and send a five-signature letter to the HUD Secretary, Governor, Assembly Speaker, and County's Congressional Delegation opposing the block grant proposal.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides housing assistance to low-income persons, currently is administered by local housing authorities, such as the County's Housing Authority which serves unincorporated areas, 62 participating cities, and six cities under the Small Cities Program. HUD, in its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2004 budget proposal, is recommending that the Section 8 Program be converted into a state-administered Housing for Needy Families (HANF) Block Grant. States would not be required to contract with local housing authorities to administer the program. Instead, they could opt to administer the program themselves or to contract with other entities.

Legislation has not yet been introduced to authorize the proposed HANF Block Grant, which is opposed by the National Association of Counties, and numerous housing groups, including the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and National Association

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of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. These groups share a common concern that, over time, increasingly less Federal funding would be provided under the block grant.

The Community Development Commission recommends support for this motion because it would continue to provide your Board with decision-making authority over the use of Federal housing funds,- and we concur. Support is consistent with the Federal Legislative Agenda adopted by your Board on February 4, 2003 which includes policies supporting proposals which provide local governments with greater decision-making over the use of Federal funds, provide local officials with greater flexibility over the administration and use of Section 8 housing vouchers, and provide for direct grants to large urban counties.

DEJ:GK
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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Executive Director, Community Development Commission